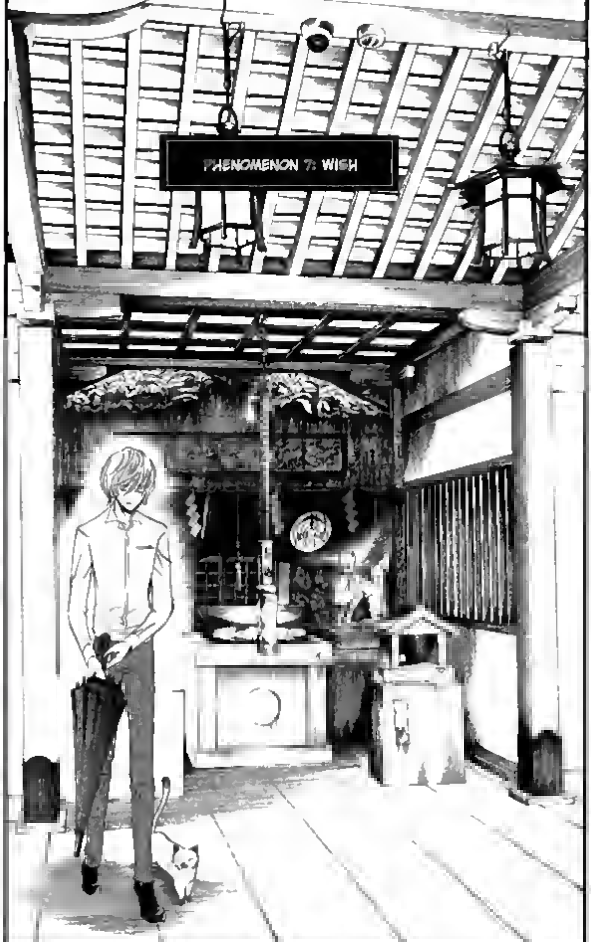
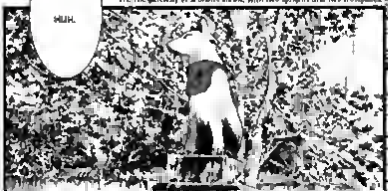
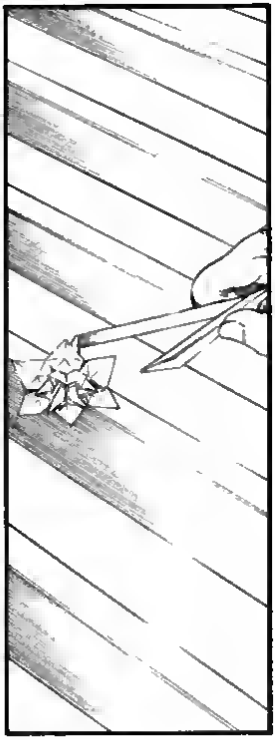

PHENOMENON 7: WISH

IT'S MY TREASURED FRAGMENT
IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN REMEMBER IT AND CAN'T AT THE SAME TIME
HUH? ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?
OH, NISHIKI-SAN. I JUST CLOSED SHOP.
I AM. I'LL BE AT THE SHRINE FOR A BIT.
WELL, I THINK IT IS
GRANDMA, I'M HOME—!
HUH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S RAINING RIGHT NOW, SO THERE WON'T BE MANY CUSTOMERS.
HUH. SHOULD I COME WITH YOU? OR SHOULD I LOOK AFTER THE SHOP?
THE FALL FESTIVAL'S COMING UP. ALL THE SHOPS HELP OUT FINANCIALLY.
SO,
.....



TN: The gateway of a Shinto shrine, with two uprights and two crossbeams. ~ Shin Kibo



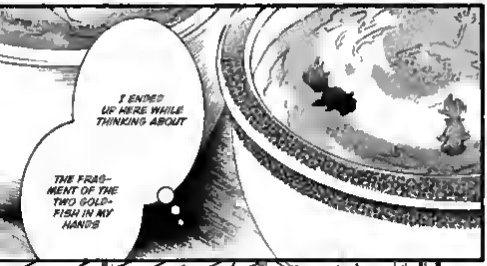
OINARI-SAN'S TORII CORRIDOR.

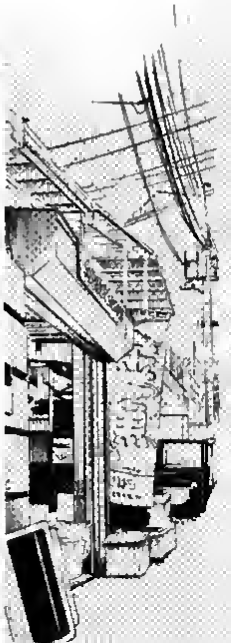
AN ORIGAMI DAFFODIL.

EVERY YEAR, IT POURS DURING THE FESTIVAL
I STILL DON'T KNOW THE REASON.
IT REMINDS ME OF WHEN I MET MY FIRST LOVE.
YOU KNOW NISHIKI-SAN.
EVEN AT MY AGE I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HIM.
DO YOU HAVE A FRAGMENT ABOUT YOURS AS WELL?
A FIRST LOVE.
WHY DOES THAT MATTER? IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S YOUR FAULT IT RAINS.
AH. HEY DOES THAT DAFFODIL MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU?
HEHE.

A FRAGMENT

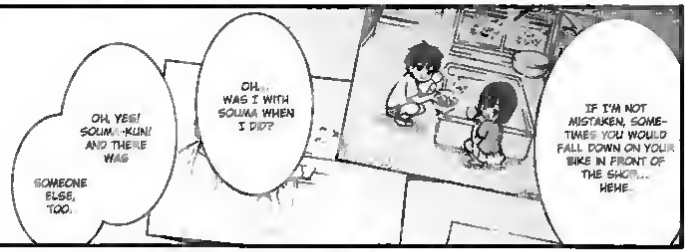
ABOUT MY "FIRST LOVE"...?





OH MY. YOU'RE HER GRAND-CHILD!?
HANAO-CHAN—?
GOODNESS, YOU REALLY STARTLED ME THERE!
HAHA—
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HANAO-CHAN WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG. IT REALLY GOT TO ME.
NO. I WAS SURPRISED TO FEEL YOUNG AGAIN
I'VE BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS WITH HANAO-CHAN SINCE WE WERE YOUNG
AFTER I GOT MARRIED WE GREW EVEN CLOSER.
I KNOW A LOOOT ABOUT YOU.
MARUZEN-SAN'S WIFE...
SOMEHOW, SHE'S ADORABLE
YOU VISITED OUR PLACE A LOT WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE

YOU WERE QUITE THE TOMBOY BACK THEN. YOU HUNG OUT WITH BOYS A LOT.
YOU LIKED SCOOPING GOLDFISH, SO YOU CAME HERE OFTEN.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
THAT'S THE KUN-JI FISH!
OH, SO SHE MET OUR SHOP'S PREDECESSORS?
YES, BUT SHE USED TO BE THIS LITTLE, RIGHT?


OH, YES! SOUMA-KUN! AND THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE, TOO.
OH... WAS I WITH SOUMA WHEN I DID?
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, SOMETIMES YOU WOULD FALL DOWN ON YOUR BIKE IN FRONT OF THE SHOP... HEHE.

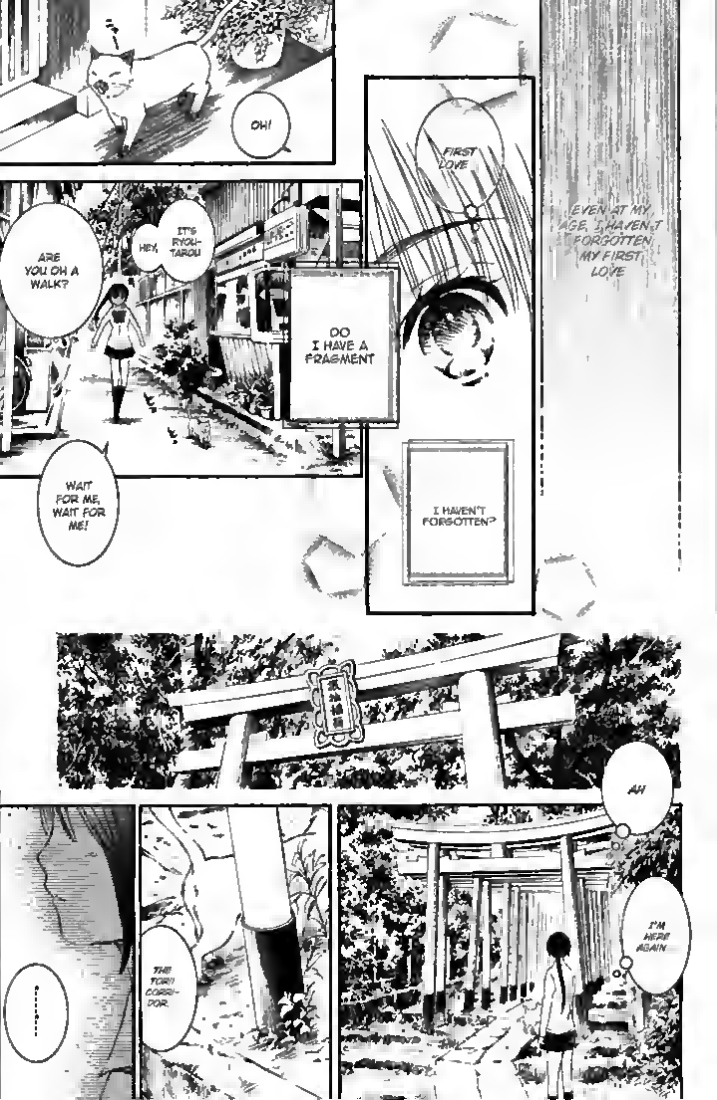
.....
SOMEONE ELSE?
GREETINGS, MARUZEN-SAN I'M HERE TO COLLECT YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FESTIVAL.
YES... WHAT WAS THE NAME ...?
...HUH? HUH? SOMEONE ELSE?
OH, OKAY.

GOLDFISH IN MY HANDS

SOMEONE ELSE

A BROKEN BIKE

EVEN WHEN I THINK I'VE CONNECTED THEM, I FIND A NEW "PIECE"
THE WHOLE THING'S LIKE AN INVISIBLE
THE FRAGMENT ALWAYS BREAKS APART.


OH!
FIRST LOVE
EVEN AT MY AGE, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MY FIRST LOVE
ARE YOU OH A WALK?
HEY, IT'S RYOU-TAROU
DO I HAVE A FRAGMENT
WAIT FOR ME, WAIT FOR ME!
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN?
AH
I'M HERE AGAIN
THE TORII CORRI-DOR
.....

SOOT CAT.

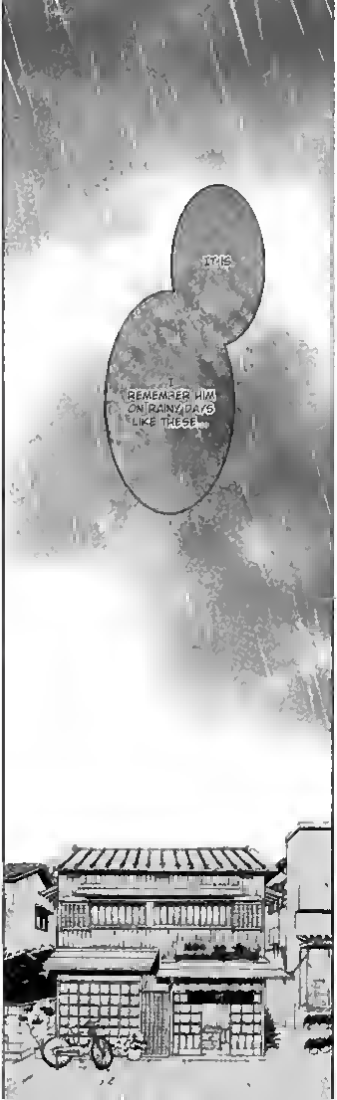
HM.
KON-SAN...!
AH, THAT HURT...
GO
HUH, IT'S SUSUNA-SAN.
*A shrine affiliated with a main shrine.
THEY SAY THAT FURISODE-INARI SYMBOLIZES FEMININITY.
THE TORII CORRIDOR OF THIS AUXILIARY SHRINE* IS ON THE SMALL SIDE...
FRAG-MENTS?
THE TORII CORRIDOR...
NO, I HAVE THE DAY OFF.
I'M LOOKING FOR FRAGMENTS FOR A BIT..
WAS YOUR REQUEST TODAY TO WALK THE CAT?
EH... KON-SAN EMBAR-RASSED ...?
OKAY
THEREFORE, IT WAS INARI'S WILL THAT I HIT MY HEAD.
REALLY.

SHE HASN'T FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING
A FEW OF HER SCATTERED MEMORIES DISAPPEARED...
MY GRANDMA TOLD ME... THAT YOU CAN REVISIT YOUR PAST WHEN YOU PASS UNDER THESE TORII...
HOW I WISH... I WAS ACTUALLY ABLE TO RECOVER MEMORIES OF MY PAST...
.....
THE LEGEND YOU MENTIONED IS BASED ON THIS.
IT IS SAID THAT THE LONG, LINED-UP RED TORII REPRESENT RETURNING TO THE WOMB.
SO YOU REALLY MIGHT UNEXPECTEDLY GO BACK TO THE PAST

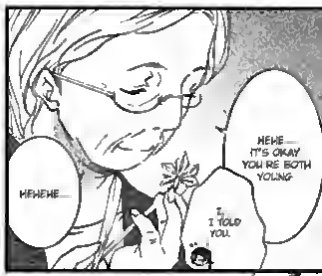
MY PAST IS ASSOCIATED WITH TORII CORRIDORS.
WHEN I MET AKAI-CHAN FOR THE FIRST TIME... AND WHEN I MET THE FOX BOY.
"EVEN AT MY AGE, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN..."
I HAVE FRAGMENTS OF MEMORIES WITHIN ME I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN
THE FOXBOY, AKAI-CHAN,
AND...
KON-SAN!
U-UM...
YES?

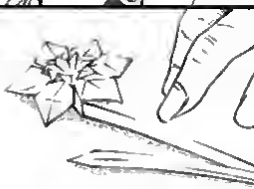
SUKUIYA-SAN.
HUH?
HUH? HUH? MEOW?
OHHH. THAT WAS THE CAT... NOT YOU.
HUH?
YOU REALLY WERE THE FOX E...
MEOW
I DEFINITELY LIVED IN THIS TOWN WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
IF WE MET ONCE BEFORE
AND I'M THE FOX BOY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
THEN YOU AND I
HAVE LOST THE SAME "FRAG-MENT"
IF SO THEN WE REALLY ARE
DISTANT VISITORS

WE MIGHT SEE THE SAME THING IF WE PASS THROUGH THE TORII CORRIDOR
"THERE WERE LIGHT PINK AUTUMN FRUITS."
WHEN I MET MY FIRST LOVE—
SUKUYA-SAN.
I'LL LOOK WITH YOU.
GRANDMA, GRANDMA!
OH, NISHIKI-SAN.
I REMEMBERED!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?
MY FIRST LOVE! IT WAS TAKUMA SHIMAZAKI!
WHY, YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHO IT WAS SINCE THEN?
Shin. kanau Fujpn


IT IS.
I REMEMBER HIM ON RAINY DAYS LIKE THESE...

YOUR FIRST LOVE? OH MY, THAT SUGGESTS SOMETHING TO ME.
N-NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
UH, NO... WHILE I WAS TALKING WITH KOH-SAN, IT SUDDENLY CAME TO ME...


HEHE... IT'S OKAY YOU'RE BOTH YOUNG
HEHEHE...
I, I TOLD YOU.



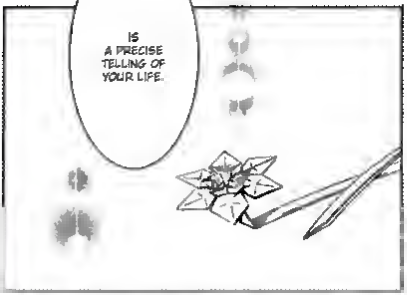
THAT DAFFODIL, YOU MADE IT A WHILE AGO
IS IT A FRAGMENT OF YOUR FIRST LOVE...?

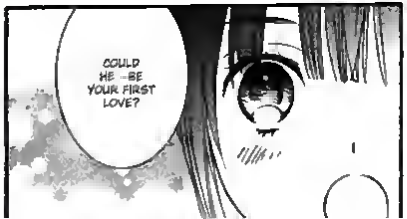
I WAS IN SCHOOL THEN
THERE WAS A CUSTOMER WHO SOMETIMES STOPPED BY THE SHOP
HE RAN LIKE THAT
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT HIS BOOKS TO GET WET
I HAPPENED TO CATCH SIGHT OF HIM MANY TIMES
BUT FOR SOME REASON, IT RAINED WITHOUT FAIL EACH TIME
YOU
I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA.
IT'S POURING

IT'S OLD. JUST GET RID OF IT LATER
BUT...
U- UM.
CAN USE THIS.
SEE YOU.
YOUR BOOKS ARE GOING TO GET WET, THOUGH
AFTER THAT,
IT WAS SUNNY FOR SEVERAL DAYS
I TUCKED A THANK YOU NOTE INTO THE BEAUTIFUL LARGE, DRY UMBRELLA,
BUT HE DIDN'T SHOW UP

I DON'T MIND IF YOU MAKE IT RAIN A LITTLE BIT
AS LONG AS I CAN MEET HIM AGAIN SOMEHOW...
ONARI-SAMA, I BEG OF YOU, PLEASE MAKE IT RAIN
THE DAY OF THE FALL FESTIVAL DREW NEAR
THAT YEAR, IT POURED DURING MISATO'S FALL FESTIVAL.
MY PRAYER HAD BEEN ANSWERED.
I WAS PUNISHED
THE STREETS WERE DESERTED. I THINK I STOOD IN FRONT OF THE SHOP, CRYING THE WHOLE TIME.
THE FESTIVAL WAS CANCELLED, OF COURSE.
THE WATER LEVELS OF MANY OF THE TOWN'S CANALS ROSE.

I LATER LEARNED THAT HE WEREN'T A STUDENT LIKE I THOUGHT BUT A SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTOR FROM A NEARBY UNIVERSITY
MAYBE HE WENT BACK TO THEIR HOMETOWN DURING THE FALL FESTIVAL
HEHE... THE PAST





FOR MAKING THAT PRAYER...

—I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE HIM SINCE THEN.

THAT NIGHT,
HEHE. I WONDER...
I HAD A WEIRD DREAM.
HEY

I'VE COME TO PICK YOU UP.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
I HAVE TO RETURN TO THE FOREST I CAME FROM.
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.

THAT WAS CLOSE
UH-OH!
DON'T WORRY I GOT THEM
TWO GOLDFISH
WAS THAT FRAGMENT ABOUT KON-SAN AFTER ALL ?
YUMA
TO OUR BELOVED FOREST...
COME, LET'S RETURN

SAKI!
WAIT, KON-SAN.
WA!
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR YOUR FRAG-MENTS ...
THE FOX BOY
MY FIRST LOVE

SOUMA!
IT'S RAINING AFTER ALL!
BUT SINCE IT'S DRIZZLING, THEY TOOK OUT THE PORTABLE SHRINE.
MISATO'S MEN WON'T LET THIS AMOUNT OF RAIN STOP THEM
OH, IT'S HANAO'S NISHIKI-CHAN!
NICE. THAT'LL WARM ME UP.
THANKS FOR ALL THE HARD WORK! HERE'S SOME PORK MISO SOUP.
YOU TOO, SOUMA!
OKAY!
OKAY!
OF COURSE, IT'D BE BETTER IF IT WAS SUNNY OUT.
HERE. TAKE THESE
HEY SOUMA, I MIGHT HAVE REMEMBERED SOMETHING
OH...?
THE FOX BOY...
SUKUIYA-SAMA!

FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE EYE...
ER, IT'S GOING GREAT

IT SURE IS KINDA UNFORTUNATE ABOUT THE WEATHER, THOUGH

OH, AKAI-CHAN!
THANK YOU FOR HELPING RUN THIS SUKUIYA-SAN.
GASP! IT'S KON-SAN!

YES!?
BUT I CAN'T REFUSE A REQUEST FROM AKAI...
—SUKUIYA-SAN.

BIG BRO, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
DON'T BE SILLY

PLEASE LET ME USE THIS FOR A BIT
HUH?
ONE, TWO...
THREE!
DON'T TELL ANYONE!

WOW, IS THAT THE SUN!?
IT'S STILL RAINING, THOUGH.
IT'S A SUN SHOWER!

IT'S GETTING BRIGHTER OUT WEST
UH-HUH.
BIG BRO, YOU'RE AMAZING! AMAZING!
THE SUN CAME OUT AFTER YOU SAID "THREE!"
WOW...
THE SUN'S OUT...

DID YOU GO THE FESTIVAL YESTERDAY?
IT STOPPED IN THE AFTERNOON.
YEAH. IT RAINED.
WELL, YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO BE A MEMBER THE SPORTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE.
WHAT? WHY ME!?
NOPE. I WOULDN'T DO IT IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.
I'D GET SUNBURNED.
SOUMA FROM A-CLASS IS DOING IT..
HUH.
—EH IT'S PROBABLY OKAY
HUH?
HEY, DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN C-CLASS?
HUH? C-CLASS..?
YES, YOUR CLASS
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU..
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S PLOTTING SOMETHING AGAIN...

Kingyozaka Noboru

Chapter 7

We are looking for Japanese Translators and MORE

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